



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **14th Member of Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy Sentenced to Prison**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Gerardo Pineda-Soria, 22, was sentenced to 30 months in prison today in United States District Court in Madison.

Pineda-Soria is the 14th drug dealer sentenced to prison as a result of the long-term drug investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations-Narcotics Bureau, the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, the Jefferson County Drug Task Force, the Fort Atkinson Police Department, the Watertown Police Department, and the Janesville Police Department into drug crimes in Jefferson County.

Thirteen other individuals were previously sentenced:

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	17 years, 6 months
Servando Herrera-Vazquez	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	11 years, 8 months
Efrain Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	10 years

Name	Crime of Conviction	Sentence Imposed
Teodulo Pineda-Buenaventura	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
Otoniel Mendoza	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
James Hrobsky	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	2 years, 6 months
Will Bryant	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	4 years, 4 months
Jesus Duque-Pineda	Distribution of Cocaine	6 months
Arturo Pineda-Lopez	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	3 years, 1 month
Perfecto Pineda-Duque	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	3 years, months
Juan C. Pineda-Pineda	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	1 year
Harold Hausz	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	5 years
Eli Torres-Banos	Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine	1 year

Pursuant to federal law, all of these sentences are being served without the possibility of parole. In addition, several individuals who have been indicted for their role in the conspiracy remain fugitives: Angel Ayala-Pineda, Celestino Velazquez-Rodriguez, Martin Pineda-Pineda, and Emmanuel Pineda-Gonzalez.

Beginning in February 2008, the United States received authority from Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb to conduct wiretaps on several of the telephones being used by Pineda-Soria's co-conspirators to conduct a drug operation run out of multiple dwellings in Watertown and a residence in Janesville. Approximately 8000 calls were

monitored by law enforcement officers between February and June in which the defendant and others were overheard conducting drug transactions and making arrangements to facilitate the sale of large amounts of cocaine in the Western District of Wisconsin.

On June 19, 2008, law enforcement officers executed 11 search warrants in the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, resulting in the arrest of Pineda-Soria in Janesville and other individuals in Watertown, the seizure of over \$100,000 in United States currency, several automobiles, and multiple kilograms of cocaine.

Numerous law enforcement agencies contributed to the investigation of this case, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations-Narcotics Bureau, the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, the Jefferson County Drug Task Force, the Fort Atkinson Police Department, the Watertown Police Department, and the Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of this case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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